

## RECENT FAUNA.

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MAMMALIA.—By *G. E. Dobson, M.A., M.B., etc.*

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The only indigenous mammal consists of a species of frugivorous Bat, described below, which appears to have hitherto escaped the notice of zoologists.\* Bones of the rabbit, rat (*Mus decumanus*), mouse, and pig (introduced by the settlers), were brought home by the collectors, but they possess no special interest.

### Pteropus rodericensis.

Dobson, Catal. Chiropt. Brit. Mus. p. 36.

Ears slightly longer than the muzzle, but projecting by their upper third only from the long fur surrounding them; ear-conch moderately broad in lower three-fourths, very abruptly narrowed above by flattening of the upper fourth of the inner margin and a deep concavity of the corresponding part of the outer margin, terminating in a narrow acute tip; more than two-thirds of the concave surface of the conch is well clothed with moderately long hairs, the upper fourth and the back of the ear naked or with a few short hairs only.

Fur long and dense, in quality intermediate between that of *Pt. edwardsii* and *Pt. vulgaris*; that covering the back of the head, neck, and shoulders very long, on the back shorter but not appressed, the hairs directed backwards, extending thickly upon the wings almost as far outwards as a line drawn from the proximal third of the humerus to the knee, upon the femur, knee, and adjoining wing-membrane along the proximal third of the tibiæ, about two-thirds of which are thickly covered with straight hairs directed backwards, their distal thirds being nearly naked as well as the feet; and, although the fur of the back extends upon the interfemoral membrane, it does not conceal its posterior margin, and its lower third, supported by the calcanea, is naked. Beneath, the antebrachial membrane is covered with long thinly-spread hairs, and similar hairs clothe the wing-membrane between the humerus and femur, and extend outwards in a broad band behind the forearm. Face reddish brown, with a few greyish or shining hairs; chin and throat darker brown; top of the head and nape reddish or yellowish brown, passing into a band of bright yellow, which extends across the back of the neck from shoulder to shoulder, and downwards on the sides of the neck and thorax, limited by a longitudinal band of

\* Mr. Gulliver, who obtained some of the specimens of this Bat, remarks:—"Insectivorous Bats are entirely absent in Rodriguez, though they exist in Mauritius. At the latter place these Bats may be seen in the caves, but in the caves at Rodriguez I never observed a trace of them, nor did Mr. Slater, who, from the constancy of his occupation there, could hardly have failed to see them had they existed."

dark fur passing backwards from the chin along the thorax to the abdomen, which is clothed with dark brown fur, of which some hairs have greyish or shining extremities; fur of the back behind the shoulders dark brown, the extremities of the hairs more or less yellowish. In the male the extremities of the hairs on the head and back are much brighter coloured than in the female.

First upper premolar deciduous; the second upper premolar and the second and third lower, also the first and second upper molars and the first lower, have each a small but distinct posterior basal cusp; even the small first lower premolar has an indication of a posterior basal cusp; last upper molar very small and circular, not as large as the first lower premolar, last lower molar slightly larger than the first lower premolar.

Length (of an adult ♂ preserved in alcohol): head and body 7"; head 2"·2; ear 0"·9; ear from tip of nostril 2"; eye from tip of nostril, 0"·8; forearm 4"·9; thumb-metacarp, 0"·35; ph. and claw, 1"·6; third finger-metacarp, 3"·3; 1<sup>st</sup> ph. 2"·4, 2<sup>nd</sup> ph. 3"·55; fourth finger-metacarp, 3"·25; 1<sup>st</sup> ph. 2", 2<sup>nd</sup> ph. 1"·85; fifth finger-metacarp, 3"·35, 1<sup>st</sup> ph. 1"·5, 2<sup>nd</sup> ph. 1"·45; tibia, 2"·25; calcaneum, 0"·6; foot, 1"·15.

This small species resembles *Pteropus rubricollis*, Geoffr., from the island of Mauritius, in size only. The ears project by their extremities beyond the fur of the head, and their margins are quite naked. In *Pt. rubricollis* they are covered by long hairs and quite concealed by the fur; the fur of the body is also quite different in texture, being much coarser and not in the least degree woolly, and the lower third of the tibia is naked.

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